

Exam Grace Period Frequently Asked Questions

When were Khmer and Punjabi designated as certified languages?

Both Khmer and Punjabi were designated as certified languages following the *2000 Language Need and Interpreter Use Study*.

Why has it taken so long to have certification exams in these languages?

Test development is very costly; therefore the AOC was not able to develop bilingual oral exams for certification in past years. Due to costs savings realized from recent operational decisions in court interpreter testing, the AOC is now able to partner with the Consortium to develop full bilingual oral interpreting exams in both Khmer and Punjabi.

When will the bilingual oral interpreting exams be administered?

The first bilingual oral examinations in Khmer and Punjabi will be administered in early summer 2011. CIP anticipates two subsequent administrations in the winter of 2011-2012 and the summer of 2012.

When will the exam grace period begin and what should I do during this time?

The exam grace period will begin once the first bilingual oral interpreting exam for certification is administered in Khmer and Punjabi (summer of 2011). The grace period allows currently registered interpreters of Khmer and Punjabi three oral exam cycles over a span of eighteen months to take and pass the certification exams, while maintaining their registered status. After the administration of these three exams, registered interpreters in Khmer or Punjabi who have not passed the bilingual oral interpreting exams in these languages will be reclassified as “noncertified.”

CIP recommends that you begin preparing for this bilingual oral exam now. Because there will only be three oral exam cycles in the grace period, CIP suggests all interpreters prepare to take the first exam offered.

Will I need to take the written exam as well?

If you passed the written exam *after* January 1, 2005, you will *not* need to take the written exam, and you are eligible to take the bilingual oral interpreting exam when it is available. If you passed the written exam *before* January 1, 2005, you will need to take and pass the current English-only written exam before taking the bilingual oral interpreting exam. For more information on the current written exam, please visit

<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/courtinterpreters/examinfo.htm>.

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How do I register for the exams?

You will need to register for the exams with Prometric, the test administrator for the California court interpreter exams. For complete information on the written and oral exams and details on how to register, please visit: <http://www.prometric.com/California>.

Will the AOC offer registered interpreters assistance in passing the certification exams?

Yes, the AOC will provide training to currently registered interpreters in Khmer and Punjabi. CIP will provide you with further information on training as soon as it is available.

If I interpret in other languages, will I lose status in those languages after the grace period?

No. The current grace period applies only to Khmer and Punjabi. This grace period will not affect your status in any other languages in which you interpret.